

January 12, 2000

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Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U. S. Department of Energy
P. O. Box 30307, MS 010
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89036-0307

RECEIVED

JAN 18 2000

RE: DEIS, Yucca Mountain Project

Dear Ms. Dixon:

1... I attended the Public Hearing in Lone Pine, CA recently in regard to the Yucca Mountain Project. [At that hearing, not one person spoke in favor of building the proposed repository. There are many reasons for local citizens to disagree with this proposal.]

1 cont. I have read the summary of the Draft, listened carefully to the presenters at the Public Hearing and have followed the news and comments in the Reno Gazette, and have read other material regarding the proposal. Here is why [I strongly believe the repository should not be built.

2 One. The majority of the nuclear material to be shipped would be coming from the eastern United States. [The Summary did not address and the presenters were unable to insure that accidents would not happen along the highways or railways of the nation. A local CHP representative commented that while DOE transportation people would be well trained, local drivers were not so well trained. An accident anywhere along the I-80 corridor through a state such as Iowa could lead to an agricultural disaster. An accident while transporting through a city such as Denver could lead to that beautiful area being unlivable for centuries and cause the death of many of our people. I have yet to find in the printed material any plan of action for such a disaster. Trained people with the right equipment along the various routes for 3000 miles who could respond within an hour's time for the next 25 years? Not very likely.]

3 Two. [This Environmental Impact Statement offered no alternatives other than a No Action policy. You have not done your job. There are other alternative locations. The Reno Gazette reported recently that a group of scientists believe that they have a process in which nuclear waste could be reduced in both volume and radioactive longevity, and that European countries have begun to look seriously at this alternative. This was not mentioned in either the Summary or the hearing. Does the DOE hope the public will not find out about an alternative process thereby delaying the opening of the repository?]

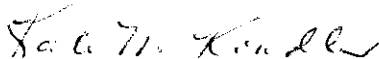
4 Three. [I have read that groundwater studies have shown that tritium is present in the water in the unsaturated zone. This was not mentioned in the Summary. If in fact this is the case, tritium was unleashed by nuclear weapons testing in the area in the 40's, 50's and 60's. In other words, it has taken about 50 years for the tritium to percolate through the volcanic rock. The summary has stated that minor releases of gases and carbon 14 would happen from time to time. How long will it take for that material to filter through to the ground water. What will happen when the containers are breached (as there seems to be a good deal of agreement by all that this may happen in the future) and radioactivity is released into the ground water, maybe not in the next century, but in 2 or 300 years? What would be a plan of action to counteract this problem?]

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5 Four. [Death Valley is one of my favorite national parks. It is a treasure that deserves to be protected. The summary mentions the possibility of fuel spills, oil leaks, toxic contaminants being leaked at the site. It also notes that because of the aridity of the area, no problem would be posed. The Amargosa River is a drainage for Yucca Mountain. No mention was made of the possibility of flash floods, which are so common in the area, transporting these contaminants into the Death Valley area destroying wildlife and vegetation. I have seen the Amargosa River during flooding; in fact, I have never seen that river without water. One mistake on the part of DOE could destroy this park for the foreseeable future.]

1 cont. And I could go on. [It is my opinion that the Yucca Mountain project is not viable. [The No
6 Action proposal would be preferable if these are the only two choices. More study, more thought, more consideration of the future needs to be given to this project before one ounce of nuclear material is shipped anywhere in this country.]

Sincerely,



Kate M. Kindler
32 Bette Lou Lane
Big Pine, CA 93513

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Jerry Lewis